(a) the formula adopted by his Ministry to formulate a scheme of merit-cum-means scholarships to students belonging to minority communities and financially backwards in snowbound and far flung areas of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, State-wise; and

(b) the details thereof and the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) A scheme of merit-cum-means based scholarship has been formulated for students belonging to minority communities for technical and professional courses at under-graduate and post-graduate levels. The scheme is awaiting approval of the competent authority.

Welfare facilities to minorities

72. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that minority community people are not being provided SC/ST facilities; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when this benefit is expected to be provided to the minority community persons for their-welfare?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) In June 2006, the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities has been announced which provides for enhancing opportunities for education, equitable share in economic activities and employment; improving the conditions of living of minorities, and wherever possible, earmarking of 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes for minorities. The programme is available on the website of the Ministry at www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

Recommendations of Sachar Committee Report

†73. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has completed the study of Sachar Committee Report;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.